

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant notes with appreciation the clarificational comments by the Examiner in the Office Action of July 24, 2006, page 2, third paragraph, noting *a part of the channels in Nagai et al. [U.S. Patent 5,863,311] can be considered as wall-flow channel and another part of the channels can be considered as flow-through channels*, and *since the language of the claim does not have any limitation to distinguish the "channels" of the instant claims and those of Nagai et al.*

In response, each of the independent claims, namely claims 9, 12, 15, has been amended to now require:

said flow-through channel is a channel through which exhaust flows and exits without passing through a barrier or wall which traps particulate and

said wall-flow channel is a channel through which exhaust flows and exits by crossing a barrier or wall which traps particulate.

In contrast, noting these definitions, Nagai et al. '311 has only wall-flow channels, not flow-through channels. All of Nagai et al.'s channels are wall-flow channels. There are no flow-through channels in Nagai et al. '311, i.e. there are no channels in Nagai et al. wherein exhaust flows and exits without passing through a barrier or wall which traps particulate.

Claims 9, 12, 15 have further been amended to require that the wall-flow channel is in an inserted position in the flow-through channel. This is illustrated in Figs. 12 and 13. This is believed clearly distinct over Nagai et al. '311.

Consideration and allowance of claims 9, 12, 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 91-94 depend from respective parent claims and define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

Claim 91 depends from claim 9 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, with the Examiner's attention respectfully directed to Figs. 11 and 12, claim 91 requires that the exhaust (204) flow axially along an axial flow direction along an axis (222), and requires first, second and third sheets (214, 216, 218), and that the second sheet (216) be pleated and form with the first sheet (214) a plurality of axially extending flow channels (208), and that the second sheet (216) have a plurality of pleats (224) defined by wall segments (226, 228) extending in alternating manner between pleat tips (230, 232, 234, 236, Fig. 12) at axially extending bend lines (238, 240, 242, 244), and that the pleat tips (246, 248) on one side (e.g. bottom) of the second sheet (216) be in contiguous relation with the first sheet (214), and further that the third sheet (218) have a plurality of pleats (250) defined by wall segments (252, 254) extending in zig-zag manner between pleat tips (256, 258) at transversely extending bend lines (260, 262, Fig. 12) which extend transversely to the defined axis (222) and transversely to the first sheet (214), and that the first sheet (214) extend axially (222) and extend laterally (266, Fig. 12) relative to the transversely extending bend lines (260, 262) of the pleat tips (256, 258) of the third sheet (218). Consideration and allowance of claim 91 is respectfully requested.

Claim 92 depends from claim 91 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 92 requires that the defined axis (222) and the defined transverse extension (260, 262) of the pleat tips (256, 258) of the third sheet (218) and the defined lateral extension (266) of the first sheet (214) are all orthogonal relative to each other. This is not present nor suggested in Nagai et al. '311.

Claim 93 depends from claim 12 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 93 requires that the exhaust (204) flow axially along an axial flow direction along an axis (222), and requires first, second and third sheets (214, 216, 218), and that the second sheet (216) be pleated and form with the first sheet (214) a plurality of axially extending flow channels (208), and that the second sheet (216) have a plurality of pleats (224) defined by wall segments (226, 228) extending in alternating manner between pleat tips (230, 232, 234, 236, Fig. 12) at axially extending bend lines (238, 240, 242, 244), and that the pleat tips (246, 248) on one

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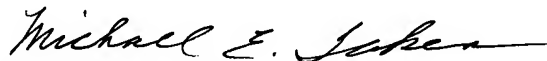
side (e.g. bottom) of the second sheet (216) be in contiguous relation with the first sheet (214), and that the third sheet (218) have a plurality of pleats (250) defined by wall segments (252, 254) extending in zig-zag manner between pleat tips (256, 258) at transversely extending bend lines (260, 262, Fig. 12) which extend transversely to the defined axis (222) and transversely to the first sheet (214), and that the first sheet (214) extend axially (222) and extend laterally (266, Fig. 12) relative to the transversely extending bend lines (260, 262) of the pleat tips (256, 258) of the third sheet (218). Consideration and allowance of claim 93 is respectfully requested.

Claim 94 depends from claim 93 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 94 requires that the defined axis (222) and the defined transverse extension (260, 262) of the pleat tips (256, 258) of the third sheet (218) and the defined lateral extension (266) of the first sheet (214) are all orthogonal relative to each other. This is nowhere shown nor suggested in Nagai et al. '311. Consideration and allowance of claim 94 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 9-17, 91-94, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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